



New Life Christian Community

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

Join Us As We Celebrate
Only Jesus

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026
VOL. 20, ISSUE 1

Pastoral Pondering

Good Works In Christ Jesus

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." ~Ephesians 2:10

Praise God our Father for the good gifts that He has given to us. God, by His divine good pleasure, is leading us at this time through the book of Ephesians on Wednesday nights. We would love to have you join us if you have not yet come!

The beginning of the book of Ephesians is saturated with glorious truths about our King Jesus, truths that have become the possession of all who have received the gift of faith in Christ Jesus. It should not surprise you that we run out of time every Wednesday, barely scratching the surface of the immeasurable riches contained in God's word.

Paul teaches the truth of every Christian's identity and testimony in Ephesians 2:1-9. After expounding the truth of every Christians identity, being formerly dead in trespass and sons of disobedience but made alive by God because of the great love with which He loved us, Paul expands on one of the divine purposes God has in this redemption.

Paul says that the follower of Christ is God's workmanship, for walking in good works. As with all of Ephesians, this idea rests *"in Christ Jesus."*

It is easy to recognize the work of a master craftsman – there are many in our community who are able to glorify God with the work that they create with their hands. Paul is using this same language to describe the work of God in the Christian – we are His workmanship. We are beautiful creations because of the righteousness we have in Christ, and we are beautiful when we reflect the character of Christ as we are sanctified. It is important that we encourage each other by recognizing the ways we can observe God's work in sanctifying each other (men, especially in your wife and believing children!)

God is truly the master craftsman making something beautiful and good out of that which is dead!

Call to mind what God said repeatedly in the beginning of Genesis – *"it was good."* God's workmanship, His creation, is always good. He can do nothing but good – it is His nature. As His workmanship, in being "made alive" or being a new creation, we are now good. It is so vital that we recognize that the only way to be *made alive* is to be in Christ Jesus by faith. The only way to *be good* is to be in Christ Jesus by faith.

We were created in Christ Jesus. Paul goes on to explain that God had purpose in this act

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Pastoral Pondering

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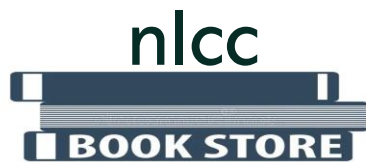
of creation. Christians are created in Christ Jesus for walking in good works.

The idea of good works leads many Christians to confusion. We have already highlighted that Paul inseparably links good works with being created in Christ Jesus. Moreover, Paul says that these good works were prepared beforehand by God. This thought is linked directly to God's sovereign will in Ephesians 1:3-14. Not only did He predestine us for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, but He also prepared beforehand the good works that He would have us walk in! Good works, therefore, are not performed by the ability of any man or woman. Surely, men and women, believers and unbelievers alike can do "good" things by their own ability, and can even outwardly perform what the law requires. But this is not what Paul is talking about. Paul is talking about that which is acceptable before God – good works in Christ Jesus, by the indwelling power of His Spirit.

Good works in the Christian are the result of being in Christ. Good works are the evidence of true faith, not a requirement to have or earn true faith.

Let us leave off with this exhortation, Christian; we have *no more* to do than walk in the good works which God has prepared beforehand. We have *no less* to do than walk in the good works which God has prepared beforehand. Praise and thank God that good works are only performed in and through Christ Jesus as He sanctifies us.

Your brother, Sam Umlauf



Have you visited our bookstore lately? Our shelves hold so many great books to help you grow in your knowledge of and love for God and to help guide you in your daily walk with Him. Perhaps you'll find a book to read with a friend or form a book group with! We also have many great resources that you may want to consider for your gift-giving needs for the young or old and all ages in-between. Come check us out after service today.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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This Week's Scheduled Events:

Tues	Young Adult Study– 6:30 pm
Wed	Immerse– 6:15 pm
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– 10:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– Noon
Thurs	GriefShare– 6:30 pm
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– 6:30 pm
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 pm

October Memory Verse:

Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing; it is a gift of God,
not a result of works, so that no one may boast."*

October Fellowship Tip:

As we enter fall, the changing colors of the trees stand out as an obvious display of God's glory in creation leading us to worship. In addition, what other ways can you be pointing out the glory and work of Jesus to others around you?

Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

Oct 11 Meal Team 1 ~Pizza

Oct 18 Meal Team 2 ~Chili

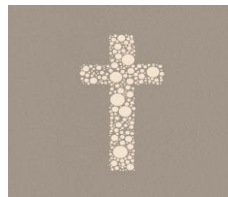
Contact Barbara Judkins if interested in being on a meal team or a helper.

This Sunday's Worship Songs:

1. Christ Our Hope In Life and Death
- 2 Lord Have Mercy
3. Blessed Assurance
4. Help Us See Christ
5. Christ Our Wisdom

➤ **Young Adult Study:** Our Young Adults Bible Study is starting this **Tuesday, October 13th, 6:30pm**. Thank you to all who have signed up to host the study! There is a location change for this week: Study will now be hosted at the Linzmeier home 1632 138th St. Balsam Lake. We will be outside, so be sure to bring a lawn chair and a sweatshirt. We will be around a fire, so you are welcome to bring treats to share that can be roasted. See you there!

➤ **Preaching Guild:** Preaching Guild is next **Sunday the 18th**. Brothers you are always invited to attend as we all seek to grow in the humble study and faithful preaching of the glorious Word of Christ. Next, week we dive back into the Gospel of Mark.



New Life Messaging

New Life Christian Community has a secure online community designed to engage the body of Christ in between Sundays. If you would like to be part of this online community, consider joining by downloading our app or through a link posted at the top on our website. Feel free to ask any of the Elders for help.



If you are a visitor this morning or have only been coming to New Life for a few months, we are glad you are joining with us! If you would like to learn more about New Life, be sure to stop by the Resource Center in the front foyer to pick up a welcome bag we have for you. Please join us for fellowship and a meal after service today where we would love to meet and get to know you and for you to get to know us more.

The Gospel of
LUKE

Today's Passage:

Jay Swisher's message is from the
New Testament book,
Luke 5:1-11

SERMON NOTES: